

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 549

By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to enact the  
"Honor the Written Intent of our Soldier Heroes  
Act."

WHEREAS, federal law under 10 U.S.C. 1482(c) prohibits a service member from designating a person other than a surviving spouse, blood relative, or adoptive relative to direct the disposal of a service member's remains; and

WHEREAS, before deploying on a combat operation, a service member is asked to designate a person who will be responsible for arranging the service member's memorial services and overseeing the service member's burial arrangements; and

WHEREAS, service members fill out DD Form 93, on which they express their last wishes with the expectation that their last wishes regarding memorial services and burial arrangements will be honored; and

WHEREAS, since 2003, more than 4,000 service members who have served their country honorably have given their lives in combat; and

WHEREAS, a service member deploying on a combat operation in defense of our country should be allowed to designate any person the service member wishes to direct the disposition of the service member's remains; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1633 of the 111th U.S. Congress, the Honor the Written Intent of our Soldier Heroes Act, also referred to as the Honor the WISH Act, amends 10 U.S.C. 1482(c) to allow a service member to designate any person the service member wishes to direct the disposition of the service member's remains, regardless of the designated person's relationship to the service member; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly hereby urges the United States Congress to enact H.R. 1633 of the 111th U.S. Congress, the "Honor the Written Intent of our Soldier Heroes Act."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.